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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/053,450	01/17/2002	Donie Stover	5100.21	3552

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EXAMINER

VARNER, STEVE M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3635

DATE MAILED: 09/23/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/053,450

Applicant(s)

STOVER, DONIE

Examiner

Steve M Varner

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 January 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) _____ is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,6,8 and 10-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2-5,7 and 9 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 6, 8, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hurlbert, Jr.

Regarding claim 1, Hurlbert, Jr. shows an elongated metal stud (A, A') having a generally U-shaped cross section including a main portion (3) and having first and second side members (2) attached.

Hurlbert, Jr. shows a first receiver (C) attached to the main portion (3) of the stud member (A, A') and spaced inwardly a predetermined distance from the first and second side members (2).

Hurlbert, Jr. shows a clip member (4, D, D') having a first portion (4) for attachment to a surface located above the stud (A, A') and having at least a first elongated stabilizing bar (B) attached thereto and extending downwardly to slidably engage the first receiver (C) on the stud member (A, A'). (Fig. 1)

Regarding claim 6, Hurlbert, Jr. shows the first receiver (C) comprises an elongated hollow channel extending parallel to the first and second edges of the main portion (3) of the stud member (A, A') and the stabilizing bar (B) includes an elongated

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bar dimensioned to slidably fit into the elongated channel (C) on the stud member (A, A'). (Fig. 1)

Regarding claim 8, Hurlbert, Jr. shows the clip member (4, D, D') comprises a generally U-shaped member having a flat main portion (4) with downwardly turned ends and wherein the stabilizing bar (B) extends substantially perpendicularly downwardly from the main portion (4) of the clip member (4, D, D'). (Fig. 1)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2-5, 7, 10-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hurlbert, Jr.

Regarding claim 2-5, 7, Hurlbert, Jr. shows the basic claimed structure. Hurlbert, Jr. shows metal. (Col. 1, Line 20) Hurlbert, Jr. does not show two elongated stabilizing bars and two hollow channels. It would be an obvious design choice to have two elongated stabilizing bars and two hollow channels to increase the strength of the connection between the stabilizing bars and stud.

Regarding claims 10-13, the claimed methods are the obvious methods of using Hurlbert, Jr.'s steel stud construction. It would be obvious to insert the stabilizing bar into the receiving channel, locate the stud and the clip member, extend the clip member to a position for attachment to a ceiling, and attach the clip member to the ceiling so that

the stabilizing bar holds the stud in position. This would enable the stud to hold the wallboard at a predetermined distance from the stabilizing bar.

Claim Objections

Claim 9 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 9 is allowable for the ceiling track.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steve M Varner whose telephone number is 703 308-1894. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Carl D Friedman can be reached on 703 308-0839. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 308-1113.

SV.



Carl D. Friedman
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3600